Sarah A. Strup 7501 Persimmon Tree Lane Bethesda, MD 20817 March 7, 1999

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Dear Commissioner Henny:

I am a concerned Pyle Middle School student who supports the irradiation process. I'm concerned because I think safety is the best policy. Irradiation kills over 99.999% of the germs that live in the food we eat. Countryside and Small Stock Journal is what informs me of this information.

Many people have compliments for irradiation. For example, "Irradiation can kill bacteria without being harmful to a human being. We need to do everything we can to protect consumers," says Chef Paul Prudhome. Paul is not the only person who has commented on irradiation. Microbiologist Jim Dixon says, "The radiation kills bacteria by disrupting their D.N.A, but leaves no residue harmful to humans."

<u>Countryside and Small Stock Journal</u> states that one third of food becomes spoiled. It is then thrown out. With irradiation we could feed more people. We would save a lot of money too. Also the amount of work required to make food would decrease.

Heath and Fitness says European wine makers found irradiated grapes give more juice. Wheat produces a larger bread loaf. Dried beans cook in less time, and meat is more tender. With this people will be more satisfied with their foods. It will also taste better and be more filling.

Irradiation preserves food without making it radioactive. This means you can keep your food longer without it rotting. You can also save a lot time and money because you can buy less" food. It can extend shelf life too.

To make it fair to those who are against irradiation, you should leave some foods alone and irradiate others. We do not need to irradiate food when not needed. 70% of the people at the Marketing Institute changed their minds in favor of irradiation. For the above reasons I support the F.D.A's decision to allow foods to be irradiated.

Sincerely,

Sarah Anne Strup

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